

## Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 061631

FROM OFA TO AMB. RIDGWAY, LOS DELE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 061631 ACTION MEXICO MAR 13.

QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 061631

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: U.S.-MEXICAN FISHERIES AND MARITIME BOUNDARY  
DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) MEXICO 2060, (B) MEXICO 2098, (C) MEXICO 2209

(D) MEXICO 2728, (E) MEXICO 3080

1. IN LIGHT OF APPARENT GOM INTENTION TO GO FORWARD ON  
JUNE 4 WITH ENFORCEMENT OF 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE, IT IS  
CLEAR THAT FISHERIES AND BOUNDARY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE  
TWO GOVERNMENTS MUST TAKE PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. DEPT, BELIEVES FOLLOWING TIMETABLE WOULD BE A REASONABLE  
ONE TO PROPOSE TO MEXICANS: APRIL 28-29 USG AND GOM  
OFFICIALS WOULD MEET TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIA-  
TIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON FISHERIES. THESE  
DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE PRECEDED BY A SEPARATE WORKING GROUP  
OF A TECHNICAL NATURE, TO EXCHANGE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION  
REGARDING THE FISHERIES WHICH WILL BE AFFECTED BY 200-MILES.  
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WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS BEGIN AROUND APRIL

20. DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE EITHER IN MEXICO CITY OR WASHINGTON, AS GOM WOULD PREFER.

3. IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE LACK OF COORDINATION OR EVEN CONFUSION WITHIN GOM ON HOW ZONE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND WHAT TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN FISHING INSIDE ZONE WILL BE, WE HOPE FIXING OF DATES WILL INSPIRE GOM AT LEAST TO BEGIN TO COME UP WITH ANSWERS.

4. FYI ASSUMING THAT APRIL 28-29 TALKS RESULT IN CONCLUSION THAT THERE COULD BE A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS ON FISHERIES, OUR VIEW IS THAT THESE TALKS COULD BEGIN AROUND 2 WEEKS AFTER INITIAL DISCUSSIONS, WHICH WOULD BE IN EARLY OR MIDDLE MAY. IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE INFORMATION-GATHERING, EXPLORATORY NATURE OF APRIL TALKS. WE DO NOT YET HAVE CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE FORMALLY, AND IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE LEGAL ISSUES, IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE WE HAVE SUCH AUTHORITY. END FYI.

5. USG WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEND A VERY SMALL TEAM TO MEXICO TO DISCUSS MARITIME BOUNDARY ISSUES ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS SOMETIME IN APRIL. USG IS NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO ENTER INTO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOM WITH RESPECT TO SUCH BOUNDARIES. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WOULD LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A FUTURE NEGOTIATION.

IT IS OUR DESIRE THAT MARITIME BOUNDARIES WITH GOM BE DETERMINED BY AGREEMENT AND WORKED OUT IN AMICABLE FASHION. IT IS OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN THAT GOM REMAIN FLEXIBLE, AND NOT LOCK ITSELF INTO SPECIFIC POSITIONS ON BOUNDARY QUESTIONS. FYI WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SOLICITING GOM VIEWS ON POSSIBLE BOUNDARIES WITH THE U.S.: THE GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT TO WHICH GOM INTENDS TO ENFORCE ITS FISHERY ZONE; AND INTEREST SHOWN BY GOM IN OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL OF BOUNDARY AREAS AS INDICATED BY LEASES, PERMITS, CONCESSIONS, ETC.  
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6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE APPROACH APPROPRIATE GOM OFFICIALS ASAP AND PROPOSE DATES OUTLINED PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE FOR EXPLORATORY FISHERIES DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND INDICATE TO GOM OFFICIALS OUR INTEREST IN INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY BOUNDARY DISCUSSIONS AT A DATE OF MUTUAL CONVENIENCE SOMETIME IN APRIL. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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